

(Public Hearing, Challis Idaho, October 1, 1997)

9 MS. BARRETT: Thank you.

10 I am Lenore Hardy Barrett. I would assume
11 that everyone here knows who I am, whether you like me
12 or not, you at least know who I am. And for the U.S.
13 Fish & Wildlife Service I would tell you that I am an
14 Idaho State legislator representing Custer, Lemhi,
15 Clark, and Jefferson Counties, and my testimony will
16 relate to legislative activity in opposition to
17 reintroduction. I do have some attachments. I don't
18 want to take the time to go into those, so I have
19 prepared a summary. And this is also important at this
20 point in time.

21 The Idaho legislature was blindsided by the
22 wolf recovery, and we realized and recognized that at
23 some point in time we would be faced with the same thing
24 relative to the grizzly bear. So what I will give you
25 today are the steps that the legislature has in place

15

1 relative to what is now going on.

2 No. 1, the first regular session, 1995, House
3 Concurrent Resolution No. 7 was a concurrent resolution
4 stating legislative findings and claiming sovereignty
5 under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution of the
6 United States over all powers not otherwise enumerated
7 and granted to the federal government by the United
8 States Constitution. That was sponsored on the floor by
9 Representative JoAn Wood.

10 No. 2, the first regular session 1995 Senate
11 Bill 1009 to create a constitutional defense counsel to
12 provide members, powers and staff and to create the
13 Constitutional Defense Council Fund. Representative
14 Newcomb sponsored that on the floor, and the intent of
15 that was in matters of sovereignty, the council would
16 step in and have the funds that might be necessary to
17 pursue the protection of that sovereignty to whatever
18 level of legal resources they might need.

19 No. 3, second regular session 1996, House
20 Joint Memorial No. 6, legislative opposition to the
21 reintroduction of the grizzly bear into the State of
22 Idaho. I sponsored that, and it is opposition to the
23 reintroduction of the grizzly bear into the State of
24 Idaho, period.

25 No. 4, second regular session -- incidentally,

16

1 we have, what, 70 people in the house, 35 in the
2 senate. If we have a roll call vote, you had a count.
3 I believe that on some of these there may have been one
4 vote in opposition. But by and large these were very,

5 very handily passed through both bodies, so when you
6 look at numbers, don't think of it as just a body, we
7 are individuals. I looked at some of your numbers and
8 some of your information and you seem to like numbers,
9 so we are looking at maybe a 70 and 35, at least a
10 hundred people who are speaking to this end.

11 No. 4, second regular session 1996, House
12 Joint Memorial No. 2, stating full legislative support
13 of Governor Batt's request for immediate suspension of
14 the Bitterroot Grizzly Bear Environmental Impact
15 Statement by the withdrawal of the federal intent
16 regarding grizzly reintroduction. I have included for
17 you gentlemen a copy of the governor's letter to
18 Secretary Babbitt and I sponsored that.

19 First regular session 1997 House Joint
20 Memorial No. 6 urging Congress to take action to provide
21 adequate funding to Idaho for the specific purpose of
22 conducting the wolf-related activities described in this
23 memorial. Representative Woods sponsored that in the
24 house. This is important because we feel that at some
25 point in time if we have artificial recovery of the

17

1 grizzly, we will be looking at the same situation and we
2 would propose to do the same thing.

3 Maybe if you can throw me off faster than I
4 can talk, we'll get through.

5 Anyway, there are some other inclusions in
6 here, because the time is short, the grizzly debate is
7 not about bears, it is about territory and lock-steps
8 with the environmental agenda to control through land
9 grabs, lawsuits and harassment of resource industries
10 and rural lifestyle, culture and custom. Your science
11 is flawed and none of this should be happening in the
12 first place.

13 Idaho's congressional delegation, Idaho's
14 governor, Idaho's legislature, Idaho's Fish and Game
15 Commission, Idaho's Fish and Game Director and a
16 preponderance, if not all, of Idaho's county
17 commissioners oppose reintroduction into Idaho, as do
18 the citizens. And in a constitutional government, that
19 is enough to reject this proposal out of hand.

20 Thank you.